

**PROVIDING AND COMMUNICATING DATA MESSAGE ALERTS STORED
ON MEDICAL DEVICES**

Abstract

5 Methods may include detecting whether a data message alert is stored in a
dedicated alert field within a memory of the medical device upon interrogating the
medical device with a programmer. The methods may also include communicating the
data message alert via the programmer in response to detecting the data message alert
stored in the dedicated alert field. A system may include a programmer, a medical
10 device, and a link between the programmer and the medical device. The programmer is
operative to provide, detect, and communicate a data message alert stored on the
medical device in a dedicated alert field. The dedicated alert field is a free form data
field having the capability to store the data message alert in any data format. The
programmer is also operative to communicate the data message alert in any data format
15 in which the data message alert is stored.